
2006 *FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA*





2006 Federal Legislative Issues for Seminole County, Florida

Top Federal Funding Items

A. Pedestrian Overpass (Howell Branch Road & State Road 426) - \$6 million

Request - \$6 million under the Transportation and Community System Preservation Program account in Fiscal Year 2007 Transportation Appropriations Bill to construct a pedestrian overpass at the intersection of Howell Branch Road and State Road 426.

The project serves as a regional trail/pedestrian link between Seminole and Orange Counties. It was approved by the MetroPlan Orlando Board as part of the Long Range Plan 2025 in 2004.

Recently, the County has completed the south link of the Cross Seminole Trail, which terminates at the Orange County Line. Orange County will be tying into this section of the trail which will provide a connection to the downtown Orlando Area. The trail serves both recreational and commuter users. In Seminole County it intersects with State Road 426 and Howell Branch Road. Approximately 50,000 cars a day pass through this intersection. The pedestrian overpass will enhance the safety at this intersection. The total cost of the project is \$6.0 million for design, right-of-way and construction. Neither the County nor the State has funds at this time.

B. Cross Florida Greenways Trail – Seminole County/Winter Springs - \$2.5 million

Request - \$2.5 million under the Transportation and Community System Preservation Program account in the Fiscal Year 2007 Transportation Appropriations Bill to develop the Cross Florida Greenways Trail in Seminole County/Winter Springs.

The Cross Florida Greenways Trail is part of a planned connection to Orange County and a regional trail system connection to the Seminole County trail system and eventually part of the Florida National Scenic Trail System. The section of the trail in which the County is seeking funds is in Winter Springs between Layer Elementary School and Old Sanford/Oviedo Road.

The project was approved by the MetroPlan Orlando Board as part of the Long Range Plan 2025 in 2004.

The trail serves work, recreational and school access purposes. It also is a “missing link” for a multi-county trail and; therefore, is significant in terms of need and importance. The total cost of the project is \$2.5 million. The County can contribute \$500,000 to this project.

C. State Road 46 – Regional Evacuation Route (SR 415 to US 1) - \$8 million

Request - \$8 million under the Transportation and Community System Preservation Program account in the Fiscal Year 2007 Transportation Appropriations Bill to develop State Road 46 from State Road 415 to US Highway 1.

The funds sought would cover the project development and environment (PD&E) phase of this project, which expands State Road 46 to 4-lanes from State Road 415 to US Highway 1 in Brevard County. Widening State Road 46 would significantly improve travel on a regional basis and provide an upgraded hurricane evacuation route.

The total cost of the project is \$120 million. The project in Seminole County was approved and adopted by the MetroPlan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan.

The County expects the funds to be provided by the Florida Department of Transportation which would be the agency to implement the project since it is a State roadway and serves traffic on a regional basis. As an evacuation route, it directly serves Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Brevard Counties. Indirectly, it would serve as a primary or secondary route for other coastal Counties along the east coast of Florida.

D. Upsala Landfill Restoration - \$2 million

Request - \$2 million under the Environmental Programs and Management Account in the Fiscal Year 2007 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill for the remediation and restoration of the closed Upsala Landfill site.

The work would include the environmental study, engineering and construction needed to reclaim the former landfill and adjacent sludge disposal area. The approximate 24 acre former disposal site would be converted into a park that would serve the residents of Seminole County and region.

E. Computer Aided Dispatch System - \$900,000

Request - \$900,000 under the Law Enforcement Technology and Interoperability Grants program in the Fiscal Year 2007 Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations Bill for a computer aided dispatch (CAD) system.

Due to the complex nature of the County's first response system and the increase in call activity, improvements to the County's

technology are required to effectively and efficiently dispense the proper resources to a variety of scenarios. The current system in place has been outdated due to call volume capacity and requires numerous upgrades to integrate technology such as Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) systems, Mobile Data Terminals (MDT), enhanced Mobile Data Collection reporting systems with integration to local hospitals, and an enhanced Incident Command Operational System to handle large scale incidents as well as Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction response.

The system is jointly used by the County and the Cities of Sanford, Lake Mary, Oviedo, Winter Springs, Longwood, Casselberry and Altamonte Springs. It provides communications for general EMS, Fire, Rescue response, many facets of Special Response and serves as ancillary support to other functions such as Animal Control services.

F. Replacement of Large Print Library Books - \$100,000

Request - \$100,000 under the Institute of Museum and Library Services account in the Fiscal Year 2007 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill to replace large print library books.

Large print books are used more and more by people who are not visually impaired. They are used by the senior citizens whose vision has declined; they are used by stationary bicycle and treadmill users; they are used by speed readers; they are used by students with reading difficulties; they are used by patients recovering from head injury or stroke. This use, on top of the intense traditional use of large print books by the visually impaired, has put a strain on the Large Print Collection of the Seminole County Public Library System.

The current Large Print Collection cannot fulfill the rising demand for this format. In order to make the Large Print Collection a more contemporary and viable collection, \$100,000 would be used to purchase approximately 2,800 large print volumes (average \$37.00 per large print volume as determined by library sources, 2004/2005 U.S. Statistical Abstracts and Bowker Annual Library and Book Trade Almanac.)

G. Regional Alternative Water Supply Program - \$2 million

Request - \$2 million under the State and Tribal Assistance Grant account in the Fiscal Year 2007 Interior & Environment Appropriations Bill to assist in the design of the Yankee Lake Regional Surface Water Facility for augmentation of the reclaimed water system to offset potable ground water demands.

The project will serve the Northwest/Northeast Service Areas of the County as well as provide resources to the Seminole, Lake Mary, and Sanford Tri-Party Re-claim System. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has determined, through studies conducted since the mid-1990's that the withdrawals from the Upper Floridian aquifer may result in adverse environmental impact. This project will help us meet the St. Johns River Water Management District regulatory controls along with possible grant funding from SJRWMD up to a maximum \$12,000,000 for construction

H. Eastern Connector - \$500 million

Support Congressman Mica's request of \$500,000,000 for the connector that runs from SR 417 south of Sanford to I-95 in Volusia.

Top Federal Legislative Issues for Monitoring

- A. **Support** – Funding for the FIRE Act and the County's grant application
- B. **Support** – Funding for the State Homeland Security Grant Program
- C. **Support** – County's grant application for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
- D. **Support** – County's grant application for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- E. **Support** – Funding as “universal service contributions” under Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934
- F. **Support** – Funding of the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program
- G. **Support** – County's grant application for a Health Community Access Program (HCAP) Grant

Oppose any bills that preempt local government authority.



Board of County Commissioners

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Cynthia Coto, County Manager

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